

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 AF-10
ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDE-00 /137 W
-----032113 241226Z /41

P R 241201Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7538
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24511

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CCD, PARM, US, UR, FR
SUBJ: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON FRENCH CCD MEMBERSHIP: FRENCH
REPLY

REFS. A. PARIS 22026. B. STATE 173564.
C. PARIS 23286.

1. SUMMARY: GOF HAS NOW PROVIDED US ITS COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED US REPLY TO THE SOVIET PAPER ON FRENCH CCD PARTICIPATION. IN ESSENCE, THE FRENCH WANT TO ASSURE THAT WE DO NOT COMMIT THEM IN ANY WAY, EITHER AS REGARDS CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OR OTHER ISSUES. FRENCH THEMSELVES MAY MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT RE DISARMAMENT IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. END SUMMARY.

2. MISTRAL, QUAI CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT, HAS NOW ORALLY CONVEYED TO US GOF'S COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED US REPLY TO THE SOVIET DEMARCHE ON FRENCH CCD MEMBERSHIP (REFS A AND B).

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3. MISTRAL MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: GOF WAS GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF US THOUGHTFULNESS IN CONSULTING FRANCE BEFORE MAKING ITS REPLY TO THE USSR. ITS PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE OBSERVATION WAS THAT IT HOPED THAT THE US WOULD NOT "COMMIT FRANCE TOO MUCH" IN ITS REPLY, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP.

4. GOF, MISTRAL CONTINUED, IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN AN ONGOING REVIEW OF "OPTIONS" IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD AS PART OF ITS PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR PRESENTATION IT INTENDS TO MAKE AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT IN MAY 1978. THESE STUDIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED. WHATEVER THEIR PRECISE OUTCOME, IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT GOF WOULD ATTACH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING CCD'S EFFECTIVENESS THAN CO-CHAIRMANSHIP--AN EMPHASIS WHICH HAD SOVIET RATHER THAN FRENCH ORIGINS. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, MISTRAL MADE NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED US REPLY UNDER THIS HEADING. EMBOFFS HAD THE IMPRESSION GOF MADE THIS POINT FOR THE RECORD AS A RESPONSE TO THE REFERENCE TO THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION IN THE SOVIET PAPER LEFT WITH US.

5. SECONDLY, MISTRAL EMPHASIZED, THAT GOF ATTACHED "GREAT IMPORTANCE" TO ASSURING THAT--IF IT SHOULD DECIDE TO TAKE ITS SEAT IN THE CCD--IT COULD DO SO AS A MATTER OF RIGHT AND WITHOUT ANY PRIOR RESTRICTIVE UNDERSTANDINGS. THUS, HE CONTINUED, THE FRENCH WILL WISH TO FEEL FREE TO PROPOSE WHATEVER REFORMS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE, FOR INSTANCE AS REGARDS RE-EQUIBRATING CCD IN THE DIRECTION OF A MORE "BALANCED"

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MEMBERSHIP. (IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE COMMENT, WHICH WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PART OF HIS OFFICIAL PRESENTATION, MISTRAL ADDED THAT THIS POINT WAS AIMED AT THE SECOND-TO-LAST SENTENCE OF THE PROPOSED US REPLY, REFERRING TO KEEPING CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES INTACT. FRENCH WOULD NOT WISH TO OBJECT TO IT FORMALLY, SINCE THIS WAS OF COURSE A US POSITION. IT DID HOWEVER GIVE FRENCH SOME CONCERN.)

6. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION MISTRAL CALLED EMBOFF BACK WITH THE "SUPPLEMENTARY MESSEAE" THAT GOF WOULD IN FACT ISSUE A "HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT" SHORTLY ON DISARMAMENT, BUT THAT HE DID NOT YET KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THAT STATEMENT WOULD SAY. WE HAVE NO OTHER INDICATIONS SO FAR WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED.

7. COMMENT: THE FRENCH COMMENT ON THE US DRAFT REPLY IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ASSURE (A) THAT GOF REMAINS UNCOMMITTED, AND (B) DOES NOT, THROUGH OUR REPLY,
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BECOME A "DEMANDEUR." IT ALSO CONFIRMS AGAIN THAT FRENCH THINKING ABOUT CCD INVOLVES MUCH BROADER STRATEGY AND POLITICAL CONCERNS.

8. AS REGARDS THE CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE, FRENCH THINKING IS EVIDENTLY STILL INCOMPLETE, ALTHOUGH MISTRAL COMMENTED THAT GARCIA ROBLES' RECENT SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SCORE WERE UNACCEPTABLE SINCE THEY FAVOR THE NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES.
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